

REMARKS

I. Status of Application

Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-26, 28-30, 32, 33, and 37, 57, and 59-65 are pending. Claims 12, 17, 22, and 37 are amended. Claim 65 is new. Claims 1-11, 17, 52, 55, 56, 62, and 63 have been allowed.

The Examiner is thanked for discussing the application with the undersigned attorney by telephone on April 7, 2010 (the “April 7 Interview”). Claim amendments to put the rejected independent claims in condition for allowance were discussed. The Examiner stated that if independent claims 12, 22, and 37 were amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 related to the configuration of the MRI assembly and the location of the screen, they would be allowed. Such amendments have been made, as described below.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 28-30, 32, and 33 have been objected to for an informality that is not completely defined. These claims are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 56, which has been allowed. These claims should therefore be allowable, as well.

Withdrawal of the objection and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. If the Examiner continues to object to these claims, it is requested that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney to discuss the basis for the objection and possible Examiner’s Amendments, if appropriate.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

A. Rejections over Kormos in view of August

Claims 12-15, 18-26, 37-51, 53, 54, 57-61, and 64 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,285 (“Kormos”), U.S.

Patent No. 6,503,188 (“August”), U.S. Patent No. 5,493,803 (“Simson”), and U.S. Patent No. 5,924,646 (“Pouya”).

While believing that the claims are distinguishable over the cited references, to advance prosecution, and without waiver of the right to argue that the unamended claims are distinguishable over the cited references in a continuation application, independent claims 12 and 22 are amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 directed to the configuration of the magnetic resonance imaging assembly and the location of the screen, as recited in claim 1. In claim 12, the limitation that the track is “attached to at least the ceiling of the room” is deleted as being unnecessary in light of the current amendments. New claim 65, which is dependent on claim 12, includes that limitation. The Examiner stated in the April 7 Interview that such amendments would make the claims allowable.

Claim 37 has been amended to define the MRI assembly as in claim 1, and to further require that the belt be at least partially within the volume between the first and second pole supports, and that moving the belt moves “at least a portion of the screen through the volume.” This amendment is similar to those made to claims 12 and 22 and should also make the claim allowable.

Amended independent claims 12, 22, and 37, and the claims dependent upon them, are therefore, allowable. The dependent claims contain allowable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

B. Claims 48 and 53

Claims 48, and 53 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kormos, August, Simson, Pouya, and Overweg. It is noted that in Paragraph 28 of the Office Action, claim 8 is also said to be rejected, but claim 8 has been allowed.

Claim 48 is dependent on claim 37. Claim 53 is dependent on claim 22. Since claims 22 and 37 are patentable over the cited references, as discussed above, claims 48, and 53 are also patentable over the cited references. Claims 48 and 53 contain allowable subject matter, as well.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

C. Claims 13 and 21

Claims 13 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kormos, August, Simson, Pouya and U.S. Patent No. 4,173,087 (“Saylor”). Claims 13 and 21 are dependent on claim 12, which is patentable, as discussed above. Claims 13 and 21 should, therefore, be patentable over the cited references, as well. Claims 13 and 21 also contain allowable subject matter.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

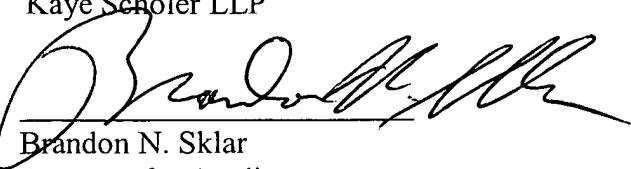
IV. Conclusion

Withdrawal of the Rejection or allowance of the application in light of these Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that any issues may be resolved over the phone or by Examiner's Amendment, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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